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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Agricultural Implements and Machinery

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1. "In India's effort to attain food self-sufficiency the problem of testing, processing and distributing improved agricultural implements and educating village cultivators to utilize more improved machinery, particularly bullock drawn and for hand use, is of vital importance.
2. "The highlighting of this problem is not new. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India in their report issued in 1928 discussing agricultural implements complained that while there was great scope for improvement, the government had so far done disappointingly little in the direction of improving implements. The position today in India in regard to these agricultural implements is about the same as it was when the Commission mentioned above reported their findings.
3. "There are five aspects of this problem. The first is the design and testing of the improved agricultural machinery. The second is the establishment of small workshops and factories to process the tested and improved implements. The third is the establishment of marketing facilities to get the improved, processed implements to the cultivators. The fourth is the training of village blacksmiths to make some of the simpler implements and to repair and maintain the new and improved implements. The fifth is the education of village cultivators about the advantages and proper use of the improved implements.
4. "On behalf of the Government of India the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is now organizing itself to give positive leadership to developing a nation-wide program of modernization, testing, processing and distribution of improved agricultural machinery.
5. "The immediate plans of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research call for the establishment of a strong Agricultural Engineering Department at the Central College of Agriculture, New Delhi. Associated with this Central Department of Agricultural Engineering will be testing stations in the various states. The central department and the state testing stations will immediately make a survey of all agricultural implements now in use in India.
6. "Once tested, the useful implements will be given a stamp of approval for processing, distribution and education for village use. A museum for displaying these

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tested and approved implements will also be organized in connection with the Central Agricultural Engineering Department and the state testing stations.

7. "The village blacksmith occupies a strategic position in India's effort to modernize and gain village acceptance and use of improved agricultural implements. Where villagers have bought improved implements and cannot get them repaired, they are forced to revert to the use of the older outmoded implements which the village blacksmith can and will repair. Also the village blacksmith is the major source of supply for many of the simple hand tools. If he is to make the needed improved hand tools, he must be trained and given assistance in improving his own equipment.
8. "To make the village blacksmith an integral part of this new program of improving and gaining village acceptance and educating for proper use of improved agricultural implements, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is planning early establishment of workshops to train the village blacksmith. These workshops will be located adjacent to India's agricultural schools which now total about 57 in number.
9. "These workshops must be adequately but simply equipped so that the village blacksmith will feel at ease and can go back to his own smithy and do the things he has learned in the training centre. It is expected that the first year 1953, 25 such workshops for the training of village blacksmiths will be organized. It is expected that one of these training centres will be located in connection with the Agricultural Engineering Department of the Central College of Agriculture. This centre will direct the training of the centres located throughout the country. If early experience is encouraging, additional workshops will be established in 1954.
10. "The Government of India has budgeted funds to get the major phases of this program started immediately. In more specific terms the government funds now available for this project will make it possible for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to establish the Central Agricultural Engineering Department and the required state testing stations. Funds are not now available, however, for the establishment of the needed workshops to train the village blacksmith."

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